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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/338,154	06/23/1999	YOSHIHITO OSAWA	SONYJP-3.0-0	1027

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LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK
600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUY THANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/338,154

Applicant(s)

OSAWA ET AL.

97

Examiner

HUY T NGUYEN

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 –10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arita et al (5,583,575).

Regarding claim 1, Arita discloses a video reproducing apparatus (Figs 71-72) for reproducing a plurality of digital video signals having different frame frequencies (NTSC and MUSE video signals) (column 41, lines 4-60), comprising: frame frequency discriminating means for discriminating a frame frequency of an inputted digital video signal; and pixel number converting means for replacing differences among said frame frequencies by differences among the numbers of horizontal pixels for said plurality of digital video signals having the different frame frequencies and performing a conversion of the number of pixels so that said plurality of digital video signals having the different frame frequencies can be processed by a common clock frequency, wherein the number of horizontal pixels of said pixel number converting means is properly set in accordance with an output of said frame frequency discriminating means.

Regarding claim 2, Arita further teaches that the pixel number converting means converts the number of pixels so that a ratio of the numbers of horizontal pixels of said plurality of digital video signals is set to a reciprocal number of a ratio of the frame frequencies of said plurality of digital video signals (column 41, lines 15-25).

Regarding claim 3, Arita further teaches that the frame frequency discriminating means discriminates the frame frequency by extracting frame frequency discrimination information included in a broadcasted digital video signal (column 3, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 4, Arita further teaches that the pixel number converting means sets the different numbers of horizontal pixels in a case where said inputted digital video signal is a standard video signal and a case where it is a high definition video signal, respectively since the apparatus capable of reproducing NTSC video signal and MUSE video signal .

Regarding claim 5, Arita further teaches that the number of horizontal pixels which is set into said pixel number converting means in case of the standard video signal and the number of horizontal pixels which is set into said pixel number converting means in case of the high definition video signal are selected to proper values at the time of designing of said video reproducing apparatus, so that a clock frequency in case of processing the standard video signal and a clock frequency in case of processing the high definition video signal are set to near frequencies (column 41, lines 20-35).

Method apparatus claims 6-10 correspond to apparatus claims 1-6. Therefore method apparatus claims 6-10 are rejected by the same reason as applied to apparatus claims 1-5.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Iketani et al teaches a recording/ reproducing apparatus for recording a digital video signal with different frame frequencies . Kituara teaches an apparatus for converting a MUSE video signal to a NTSC standard.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY T NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 305-4775. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM -6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to 2600 TECH CENTER customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

H.N
July 14, 2003


HUY T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER